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Leo Rover, Symington, Stuart

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(CIA)

WASHINGTON--SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER EVERETT DIRKSEN SAID TODAY THAT HE IS "NOT SURE" WHETHER HE COULD SUPPORT A COMPROMISE MOVE DESIGNED TO BROADEN SENATE SURVEILLANCE OVER CIA SPY ACTIVITIES.

EFFORTS TO FASHION SUCH A COMPROMISE ARE IN PROGRESS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD. DIRKSEN HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED HIS STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY ENLARGEMENT OF THE PRESENT CIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

AT THE WEEKLY NEWS CONFERENCE OF GOP LEADERS, HOWEVER, DIRKSEN SAID THE MATTER HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED AND SAID HE IS NOT SURE ABOUT A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE. HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AT LEAST ONE UNANNOUNCED MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN WHICH THE CIA ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED.

UNDER QUESTIONING TODAY, DIRKSEN RESTATED HIS CONVICTION THAT INTELLIGENCE MUST BE HELD TIGHTLY OR IT CEASES TO BE INTELLIGENCE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN "DEEPLY INVOLVED" IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES BEGINNING WITH SOME PERSONAL "PLAIN CLOTHES" EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD WAR I PERIOD.

"THERE WILL BE MISTAKES," SAID DIRKSEN IN HIS COMMENTS ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES," BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ACCEPT THE MISTAKES. YOU CAN'T DISCUSS THEM."

THAT MAY "SEEM ALIEN" TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, BUT "THAT'S THE REALITY OF THE WORLD TODAY."

DIRKSEN MADE HIS COMMENT AFTER CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., SAID HE WILL NOT SURRENDER ANY OF THE RIGHTS OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO COMPROMISE THE CIA DISPUTE.

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON STEPPED INTO THE CIA CONTROVERSY TODAY BY DENYING THREE RECENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SPY AGENCY AND DEPLORING "UNFORTUNATE" PUBLICITY GIVEN TO SUCH INCIDENTS.

IN A SHORT SENATE SPEECH, SYMINGTON SAID IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR CIA TO ANSWER SUCH CHARGES. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE INFORMAL WATCHDOG GROUP WHICH OVERSEES THE ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET OF THE CIA.

"THESE CHARGES -- SOME OF THEM ARE ABSOLUTE FALSEHOODS -- ARE CARRIED WITHOUT THE CIA HAVING ANY CHANCE TO REPLY," SAID SYMINGTON.

SPECIFICALLY, SYMINGTON:

--STATED THAT "AT NO TIME" WAS COL. JAMES R. CHRISTENSEN GIVEN "DRUGS OF ANY SORT" BY CIA IN THE COURSE OF A PHYSICAL APPLICATION AS CHARGED IN A COURT CASE BY THE WIFE OF CHRISTENSEN WHO WAS DECLARED A SUICIDE ON JAN. 26.

--DENIED THE STATEMENT OF CUBAN PREMIER CASTRO THAT THE CUBAN EXILES WHO TRIED TO SNEAK INTO HAVANA LAST SUNDAY REPRESENTED A CIA FRONT. SYMINGTON SAID THE GROUP GOT "NO SUPPORT OR GUIDANCE FROM CIA" AND THAT THEIR LEADER, ANTONIO DE LA CUESTA VALLE, "HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THE CIA."

--DESCRIBED AS "NOT TRUE" THE CLAIM OF FORMER BRITISH PILOT JOHN R. HAWKE THAT HE WAS "A SPECIAL PROJECT AIRMAN FORCIA" IN CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH HE WAS INDICTED ON A CHARGE OF ILLEGALLY EXPORTING B26 PLANES TO PORTUGAL. SYMINGTON SAID "THERE IS NO INFORMATION OF ANY SORT WHICH CAN CONNECT HAWKE'S ACTIVITIES WITH THE CIA."

"IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THESE CHARGES ARE GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY WITH LITTLE OR NO EFFORT TO CHECK THEIR ACCURACY," SAID SYMINGTON.

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